

A2 -- Claim 6. A method of normalizing circadian rhythm by administering to a patient suffering from disturbance of circadian rhythm, an effective amount of astaxanthin and/or an ester thereof.

Sub B1 Contd. Claim 7. A method of preventing and alleviating sleep disorder and various diseases due to disturbance of circadian rhythm by administering to a patient in need of prevention and alleviation of said sleep disorder, an effective amount of astaxanthin and/or an ester thereof.

rule 126 Claim 8. A method of normalizing circadian rhythm by administering to a patient suffering from disturbance of circadian rhythm, an effective amount of astaxanthin and/or an ester thereof, and an effective amount of melatonin.

rule 126 Claim 9. A method of suppressing degradation of in vivo melatonin by administering to a patient suffering from disturbance of circadian rhythm, an effective amount of astaxanthin and/or an ester thereof. --

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.